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Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001200030015-5

NSC BRIEFING

22 March 1960

BACKGROUND

WEST AFRICA POLICY PAPER

- I. Extremely rapid political evolution now going on in West Africa, is pointed up in paper under review. We wish to underscore that this is giving rise to new situations and trends, some of which clearly unfavorable to West.
- A. Most conspicuous example this trend is Guinea. We noted week before last the extent to which Bloc has established in Guinea its first firm beachhead in Black Africa.
- B. Next most dangerous situation at present probably that in newly independent (1 January 1960) Cameroun. Here present government conservative and strongly pro-Western, but continuation regional armed dissidence and existence broad current legal political opposition, spearheaded by Marxist-influenced elements, raise questions as to future stability and orientation this country.
- C. Ghana now stable under strong government, but its increasingly aggressive Pan Africanism producing mounting friction with West and also with more moderate African leaders. (e.g. Tubman of Liberia)
- D. Elsewhere, French Community states, including Mali, plus Togo, Nigeria and Sierra Leone appear to be evolving in orderly fashion toward formal independence. All have basic economic and social problems and will need strong support from the West.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. IF
X ~~NOT~~ CLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, S, C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 11-1-82 REVIEWER: 372044

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